

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE IN CHARGE

OF

Friends' Mission in Washington,

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE

FREED PEOPLE OF COLOR.

PRINTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF FRIENDS OF NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING.

NEW BEDFORD:
1865.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of New England Yearly Meeting in aid of the colored Freedpeople held at New Bedford 12 mo. 6, 1865, the following Report from the Friends having charge of our mission at Washington was received and read. And it appearing both from the report and from statements made by Friends who have recently visited our establishment there that a further supply of money and clothing should be sent forward at the earliest day practicable to meet the wants of the suffering, it was concluded to send copies of this report to each of our Monthly Meetings with an urgent request that friends would make up the sum wanted by collections for this object in their different localities without delay, and forward the money received to the Treasurer of the Committee, Charles F. Coffin, Lynn, by the 1st of 2d month next. Clothing and bedding may be sent to Nathan Breed of Lynn, William C. Taber of New Bedford, Benjamin Buffum of Providence, or may be forwarded directly to Richard Battey, 13th Street, between R and S, Washington, D. C.

R E P O R T .

TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Since the last report of your committee in charge of the mission at Washington several months have elapsed, during a portion of which time some of our operations there have been partially suspended—the store only going on as usual. Our friend William A. Sampson has remained in Washington during the summer with the exception of a short vacation. George Phillips, his assistant, has remained the entire season. Pamela C. Varney has also been there through the whole time. During the absence of our superintendents she has been in charge of the housekeeping, and we trust her health has not suffered in consequence of this continuous stay. In the early part of Seventh month she was joined by Mary Osborne, of Weare, whose time was principally devoted to visiting the families, relieving such as she found in destitute circumstances, and occasionally giving out sewing to those especially needy. Her peculiar adaptation to this work gave great satisfaction to the committee, and they hopefully looked forward to the winter feeling assured of her competence to meet its increased duties. But a severe cold taken the latter part of ninth month developed into remittent fever, from which she has now but partially recovered, leaving her quite too delicate to meet the labors and exposure of mission life.

Your committee feel it due to these laborers who have remained at the mission gratuitously through the heat and discomfort of summer to express their appreciation of this sacrifice and devotion to the cause.

On the ninth of Tenth month our superintendents, Richard and Abby S. Battey, returned to Washington. They were accompanied by Maria Buffinton to assist in the sewing school and by Rebecca W. Mason and Sarah T. Carey to teach the

day school. In accordance with the recommendation of the Yearly Meeting the first work of our superintendent was to arrange a room suitable for the accommodation of this school, which was done at an expense of \$57.70. Of this sum forty dollars was contributed by the superintendent of schools under the Freedmen's Bureau. He also furnished us with stoves, fifty small chairs, black boards, and some other articles. Lamps for the night school were also given by him. On the 7th of Tenth month two of your committee arrived at the Mission and found the school fairly commenced—opening with twenty-five scholars and steadily increasing while they remained (which was a little less than a month) up to 130 scholars. Another room was put in order and seated with the small chairs contributed by the Freedmen's Bureau, and a third teacher secured as the work seemed likely to prove arduous for the two already engaged. Our friend Eliza Yates has kindly volunteered to assist in the school until the third teacher arrives. An evening school has also been opened on three evenings in the week with an attendance varying from sixty to eighty; these being adults require more personal attention than children, and all the members of the family give their time to this school. The First-day school has been commenced with an attendance of from 100 to 130. A larger proportion of these are children than last spring. These gatherings are always seasons of great interest. The sewing school is again in operation though its opening was delayed by the illness of Mary Osborne. It is now under the supervision of Abby S. Battey, who is assisted by Maria Buffinton and Pamela C. Varney. Sarah E. Wall has again taken the place so acceptably filled by her last spring of visitor to the families, and distributor of clothing and other articles to the destitute. Straw braiding, basket making, braiding and sewing husk mats, have all been started. The arrangements for these operations with the salaries of teachers for one month have been made at an expense of \$252.57.

It will be observed that we have now a family of eight persons all actively and usefully employed. We will recapitulate our superintendents—Richard and Abby S. Battey, every moment of whose time from early dawn to the late hours of the evening is made to count to the interest of the mission; Rebecca W. Mason and Sarah T. Carey, the efficient teachers of our day school, who are faithfully performing an arduous and beneficent work; Maria Buffinton, Pamela C. Varney, Sarah E. Wall, and Eliza Yates, all earnestly working for the cause and serving gratuitously. To sustain this large family and keep the various departments in active operation will require for the next six months nearly \$400 per month, and your committee trustfully hope that all who feel interested in this great work will cheerfully contribute by material aid to their support. The buildings needed repairs and improvements to make them tolerably comfortable for occupation by the family during the winter. These have been made and some necessary articles of furniture purchased at a cost of \$222.31. William A. Sampson, who has now removed his family to Washington, still continues in charge of the store, the sales from which have increased of late, and as a gratifying evidence that it meets the approval of the heads of the Freedmen's Bureau we would state that while our committee were there they received a call from General Eaton, assistant commissioner of the Bureau, with the request that Friends would establish a second store in another locality in the city for which he would furnish the buildings. This proposition we recommend to the consideration of the Board. General Eaton also expressed his satisfaction with other departments of our mission, giving it as his opinion that it was based upon the right principle, and your committee are encouraged to believe that by the diversity of our teachings and especially by the example of our family living in their midst we shall raise this people more quickly and create in them greater self-respect than could otherwise be accomplished. With a view to carry out the recommendation of the Yearly Meeting in regard to the erection of houses your committee have purchased near the mission house seven lots of land containing 17,500 feet at an expense of \$2625, and arranged them so as to accommodate six houses of four distinct and separate tenements each. One of these is nearly completed and a contract made for another which will immediately be put up. These houses have good shingled roofs and chimneys and are well lathed and plastered and will cost in round figures, with the land and sheds for each, \$1100 apiece or \$275 a tenement. Per-

haps these have been erected for less than the other four can be, as they have been built mostly from lumber obtained from the purchase of a large government building. These matters are thus detailed to show that in carrying out the wishes of the Yearly Meeting we shall not only spend the funds now on hand, but require a further sum of about eight thousand dollars. We earnestly appeal to all who can spare second hand clothing or bedding to forward it to Richard Battey, 13th Street, between R and S, as promptly as possible. We have observed that some have believed that because of the establishment of the Bureau we need no longer work for the Freedmen. Your committee believe that whenever cases come directly to the knowledge of any of its officers no one will be allowed to starve, but they have no clothing at their disposal, and at present no means to purchase it. Again it is impossible for them to know of individual cases. Gen. Eaton has requested the agents of benevolent societies to report such to him, and our visitor will endeavor to do it as far as may be in her power, but the clothing we must supply ourselves. Your committee were encouraged in their efforts by their interviews with the officers of this Bureau. It is strengthening to feel that a branch of the government is now co-operating with us and we with them.

It may be interesting to Friends to know that the members of our mission family often constitute a large part of the little meeting of Friends which assembles in Washington in the parlors of a house situated near the corner of Ninth and F Streets. Our friends Richard and Abby S. Battey, who are elders in Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, sit at its head, and their occasional communications are interesting and acceptable.

We have received the following report of the schools :

DAY SCHOOL.

Whole number,	170
Average attendance,	120

CHILDREN'S SEWING SCHOOL.

Average attendance,	50
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EVENING SCHOOL.

Average attendance,	66
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FIRST-DAY SCHOOL.

Average attendance,	116
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SEWING SCHOOL.

Number of women employed,	60
Number of garments made,	185
Amount paid for sewing,	\$61.04

Since the opening of the schools, this Fall, we have distributed gratuitously among the destitute 589 garments, and sold to those who are able to purchase, at very low prices, 119 garments, and the money thus received to the amount of \$66.77 has been given in orders on the store to those in need of food or provisions.

BENJ. BUFFUM.

ELLEN K. BUFFUM.

GERTRUDE W. CARTLAND.

ANN B. EARLE.

GULIELMA W. HOWLAND.

JOSEPH CARTLAND.

EDW. W. HOWLAND.

EDW. EARLE.